

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending in this Application.

Claims 6-9 are withdrawn from consideration.

The figures are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(o).

The abstract is objected to.

Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noble (U.S. Patent No. 4,809,037).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suh (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,035).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noble in view of Tanabe (U.S. Patent No. 5,091,340).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suh in view of Tohyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,535).

With this Amendment, claims 4 and 5 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-3 are amended, and new claim 10 is added.

II. Objections to the Figures

The Examiner has objected to the figures under 37 CFR 1.83(o), stating that "suitable legends are required for proper understanding of the drawings".

With this Response, Applicants submit replacement sheets corresponding to Fig. 1, Fig. 3, and Fig. 5. Applicants submit that, at least with the changes submitted herewith, the figures are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.83(o). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn. No new matter is introduced by the changes.

Applicants note that, although the instant office action specifies Figs. 1-3 in the objection to the figures, it is their understanding that reference to Fig. 1, Fig. 3, and Fig. 5 was intended.

III. Objections to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the abstract, stating that “[t]he abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words” (emphasis in original).

Applicants respectfully submit that the abstract, at least as amended herewith, is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72.

IV. Objection Under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) “as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only”.

With this response, Applicants have rewritten claim 3 to be an independent claim, and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

V. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has variously rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In amended claim 1, one of the features of the present invention is characterized more clearly by specifying that the flashlight control circuit initiates the flashlight illumination in response to a vertical synchronous signal detected by the detecting circuit, and terminates the flashlight illumination in response to the next vertical synchronous signal detected by said detecting circuit. Thus, the flashlight illumination is emitted between two successive vertical synchronous signals. Claim 2 is amended so as to be consistent with amended claim 1.

In Fig. 7 of Noble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,805,037), after the vertical blanking signal VBLK indicates low (220), the flash trigger signal FTGR indicates high. However, the flash trigger signal FTGR keeps its high status, even after the vertical blanking signal VBLK next indicates low (220A). Finally, the flash trigger signal FTGR indicates low when the vertical blanking signal VBLK again indicates low (220B).

Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention, Nobel et al. '037 discloses flashlight emission being terminated when the vertical blanking signal VBLK indicates low (220B), and also discloses flashlight emission being continued while the vertical blanking signal VBLK is indicating low (220A).

Tanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,340) discloses flashlight illumination being initiated when a predetermined time elapses after detecting a vertical synchronous signal (FIGS. 4 and 7), and also discloses flashlight illumination being terminated when predetermined times of the vertical synchronous signals are detected after initiating the flashlight emission (FIG. 11). However Tanabe fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the feature of the

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present invention wherein flashlight illumination is initiated in response to a vertical synchronous signal and is terminated in response to the next vertical synchronous signal.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4445. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that a further extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of


time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and
Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:



Angus R. Gill
Registration No. 51,133

Mailing Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 415-8746
(212) 751-6849 (Fax)